

Amusements and Meetings.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—Strakosch Italian Opera, "Don Giovanni."
BOOTH'S THEATRE.—"Romeo and Juliet." Miss Nelson.
BROADWAY THEATRE.—"Humpty Dumpty." G. L. Fox.
COLUMBIAN.—Day and evening. "Cyclorama of London 1851."
DAILY FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.—"Monsieur Alphonse."
GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—"The Girl of the Year."
LYCERN THEATRE.—"La Marquise." Fanny Foster.
NIBLO'S GARDEN.—Schubert's Transatlantic Novelty Combination.
PAIK THEATRE.—"Love's Penance." Charles Fechter.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE.—"Led Astray."
WALLACK'S THEATRE.—"The Veteran." Lester Wallack.

ASSOCIATION HALL.—Readings. Dr. Spencer.
FERRERO'S ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Grand Catholic Fair.
METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART. Open daily.
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN.—Forty-ninth Annual Exhibition. Day and evening.
WILSON CHAPEL.—Lecture. The Rev. J. P. Kretsching.

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Business Notices.

WHITNEY, VOL. TRAVEL, OR STAY AT HOME,
Ladies' Second. Address: Fifth Avenue, No. 15.
Four Cities built on one site—Ancient Troy,
with 100 illustrations. See Tribune Extra No. 15. Price 10 cents in
advance; 20 cents in parcels form.

The Agricultural Department of this morning
paper's Semi-Weekly Tribune occupies, as usual, a full page, and
contains articles on such distinguished subjects as Prof. C. V. Riley,
Prof. A. S. Armit, and Dr. J. M. W. S. Johnson.

TERMS OF THE TRIBUNE.

DAILY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$10 per annum.
SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$5 per an.
WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$3 per an.
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According to position in the paper.
Terms, cash in advance.

Advertisements received at up-town offices, 541 W.
Third-st., or 308 W. Third-st., at the Harlem Office, 3,385
Fourth-ave., between 135th and 136th-sts.; and at the
Brooklyn Branch Office, 325 Washington-st., next
door to the Post-office, till 5 p. m., at regular rates.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE will be ready
this morning at 5 o'clock, in wrappers for mailing.
Price 5 cents.

During the construction of the front of the new Tribune
building, the Tribune Office may be found in the first
building in the rear on Spruce-st. The Tribune Counting
Room is on the first floor, and is entered at the second door
down Spruce-st. from the old site.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1874.

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

Mr. Gladstone made a speech in the British House
of Commons on the Budget. He congratulated the Chan-
cellor of the Exchequer on the favorable exhibit of the
finances. Mr. John Holker, the new Solicitor-General,
has been re-elected to Parliament. Gen. Primo de
Rivera, who was wounded at Bilbao, has partially re-
covered. An investigation in the case of "América"
has been ordered by the French Government. A
famine prevails in Anatolia. The Count de
Camarillo is at Versailles.

In the Senate yesterday, the Monnetie bill was dis-
cussed in the morning hour, after which the considera-
tion of the Louisiana bill was proceeded with. Mr. Mer-
riam speaking in support of the McKeey Government.
In the House, the bill relating to citizenship was con-
sidered in the morning hour. Mr. Orth replying to Mr.
Cox's speech of yesterday and speaking in advocacy of
the bill. Messrs. Schumaker and Wood also submitted
remarks on the subject; the consideration of the Gen-
eral Appropriation bill was then resumed; an angry
personal discussion took place between Messrs. Brown
and Starkweather; seven pages of the bill were disposed
of during the day, and an evening session was held at
which the debate was continued.

It seems probable now that the Arkansas troubles will
be peacefully settled. The State Senate passed the bill
Sunday last by a vote of 26 to 3. Sen. Capt. C. P. Smith
and three other men were drowned near Cape May,
N. J. The report of the Treasurer of the Centennial
Board of Finance shows a balance on hand of about
\$265,000. The foundation in the Mississippi Valley
is causing wide-spread suffering.

The Commissioners of Emigration announce that with-
out further appropriations the public institutions on
Ward's Island will have to be abandoned. Com-
missioner Van Nort points out the necessity of imme-
diate repairs on street pavements. A meeting of
honors of the late Dr. Livingston was held. Judge
Davis to sign the bill of exceptions in the Wood case.
The St. George's Society had their annual ban-
quet. Gold, 113½, 113½, 113½, 113½. Thermometer,
44°, 47°, 47°, 41°.

On the second page of THE TRIBUNE to-day
we print a summary of the proceedings of
the National Academy of Science during the
first two days' session. The members of this
association are men of mark in various
branches of science; and the reports, though
not altogether of a popular character, will be
scanned with interest.

The condition of Cuba to-day is a note-
worthy example of the dangers from which
a country may suffer through a redundant
currency. The letter from Havana which we
publish on our second page gives some in-
cidents which show that the financial em-
barrassments there have become so great that
there is no hope for their removal for many
years, even under the most prudent adminis-
tration.

The bill at Albany for setting aside a plot
of ground in the Central Park for military
parades and drills is full of danger. The
Central Park was not intended for such a
purpose, would be largely damaged by
its use, and would certainly be made a
less desirable breathing place for the women
and children who now find it so precious a
boon. There is no difficulty in getting space
for all the parades we need, without invading
Central Park.

The question of "head money" comes up
again in the complaint of the Commissioners of
Emigration that they have not money enough

to pay expenses. In 1871 the fee was reduced
from \$250 to \$150. No corresponding re-
duction was made in the cost of immigrant
passage, and the receipts have steadily fallen
off until there is danger, the Commissioners
say, of being obliged to abandon some of the
most important works. The institution on
Ward's Island is said to be threatened by
this call for retrenchment. The subject is an
important one, but it is late for the present
consideration of the Legislature.

It seems that we are not to hear the last
of the Sanborn investigation in a hurry. The
Committee's report is ready; moreover, it is
unanimous. But further evidence concerning
the misuse of the contracts has been dis-
covered and is to be brought forward. We
take it for granted that the Committee do
not want any more facts to fortify their
already fixed opinion that the law should be
immediately repealed. They expect, however,
to find some more rogues. If they are suc-
cessful in their search, let us hope the rogues
will be punished. Appropos of this business, it
is reported that Secretary Richardson is to be
punished with a seat on the bench of the Court
of Claims.

Two honorable Members of the House en-
deavored to give an old-time flavor to Con-
gressional debate yesterday. Mr. Starkweather
of Connecticut had revived an ancient letter
written by Mr. Brown of Kentucky, in which
the writer expressed sentiments more common
in the South before the war than now. Mr.
Brown retorted by bringing forward Mr.
Starkweather's appeal to Mr. Huntington of
the First National Bank, Washington, asking
for help in his political canvass. Mr. Brown's
thunderbolt had the merit of freshness; Mr.
Starkweather's was a little rusty. The gentle-
man from Connecticut "vindicating" himself; but
Mr. Brown had the last word, which referred
to "the galled jade." The proceedings seem
to have been relished by the audience.

After a long and rather undignified wrangle,
the Senate has finally passed the Supply bill.
Small occasion, it would seem, was necessary
to raise a breeze among Senators who have
so many little private piques to gratify; the
discussion is said to have been acrimonious
and impertinent. But the clause relating to
the New Capital Commission was hotly dis-
puted. Finally, that portion of the bill
was amended so as to abolish the present
Commission and give to the Governor the ap-
pointment of a single Superintendent for the
work. As was concisely stated in Mr.
Thurlow Weed's letter in THE TRIBUNE yes-
terday, every step in the construction of the
new Capital has justified the popular appre-
hension that the work would be an expensive
and discreditable job. The Senate has done
well in leaving the appointment of the Super-
intendent to the Governor. There is popular
confidence in his choice; we regret to say that
the Legislature has not inspired any such
feeling.

SOME POINTS ABOUT THE VETO.

I. There should be an end of the efforts to
depreciate the President's action by im-
pugning his motives. We have not over-
rated the President's knowledge or sense on
financial subjects. Some of the most pitiable
exhibitions of incompetence ever made in the
productions of any high official in the history
of this country have appeared in his letters
during and since the panic. That in which he
foreshadowed the five dollars a day specie re-
demption policy, and expressed his amazement
that silver was not already coming into
general use in trade, need alone be mentioned.
We do not, therefore, strain the probabilities
in recognizing the need for hearty thanks to
sound advisers about him. But all the same,
it was the President's decision that settled the
matter. His most intimate and congenial friends
were vehement inflationists. He had taken
petulant offense at the tone of the Boston and
New-York merchants. Against these he de-
cided right. The Country wants results, more
than manners or motives. The President has
rescued us from inflation, and shameful breach
of National faith. All honor to him for it!

II. The situation compels a new Secretary
of the Treasury. Mr. Richardson has not
been so much unsound as merely unfit.
He has made the most absurd figure in
the Treasury Department known to our
financial annals. Besides, the Sanborn
business has shown something more
something worse than incompetence. The Presi-
dent having placed himself at the head of the
party of financial knowledge and honesty,
must feel the necessity for some fit repre-
sentative of it in the Treasury—some such man
as the one he first chose and would doubt-
less now have adorning his Administration
but for his unfortunate inability to free him-
self from the entanglement of his vast busi-
ness. The Country would be glad to welcome
a man of such caliber as William M. Everts
in the place once filled by Salmon P. Chase.
The greater probability is that we shall have
some such man as Columbus Delano.

III. There will be no split in the Re-
publican party in consequence of this
veto. Parties split because of devo-
tion to principle or devotion to office.
There are not enough of the inflationists who
have any conception of principle in the mat-
ter to cause the slightest danger on that ac-
count. There are none who will want to split
off on account of the offices, for the Presi-
dent holds the gift of them, and on the
question of honesty in finance is sure to
have the sober, second thought of the Country
with him. People who look to the veto as a
source of political disorganization, make a
great mistake. The President will hold on to
the Mortons and Butlers and Logans through
natural affinity; while by this message he has
very largely regained the better and hitherto
greatly disaffected class of his supporters.

IV. The message will rate among the most
respectable of the State papers that have eman-
ated from the White House since the days of
Lincoln. Current gossip attributes it to
Bancroft Davis. Certainly the same pen did
not trace this message and the naive ex-
pression of amazement (in the President's
letter to a New-York banker) that silver was
not already going into general circulation in
this city. But the same hand signed both, and
for that the Country gives thanks. On the main
points in the message there will be no dispute
among sound financiers, but at the close are
a few suggestions which will be received with
reserve. The proposition to increase the reve-
nues so as to pay current expenses, provide
for the Sinking Fund, and retain a heavy gold
surplus in the Treasury, will provoke warm dis-
cussion. The Country will hardly stand direct
taxation, it is doubtful if additions can
safely be made to the tariff, and the business
of hoarding gold in the Treasury, save with a
direct view to the early resumption of specie
payments, would work great derangement
of mercantile interests. An eminent mer-
chant of this city has a suggestion,

which at any rate deserves careful
thought. He would have the Secretary
of the Treasury fix a rate, to be amended
if necessary monthly, by which merchants
could with their checks purchase gold for the
payment of duties only. The gold would thus
virtually remain in the Treasury all the time,
and yet would be used by the merchants at the
Government rate for business with the
Government. The payments of interest would
still turn annually enough gold on the gen-
eral market to provide for the purchase of
exchange.

V. Our business men have for months been
standing still. They were unwilling, they said,
to undertake anything till they "knew" from
"Washington" what to depend upon. Now
they know. We do not expect an immediate
return to such flush times as those before the
panic; but we certainly ought to see the stag-
nation ended. The first to move now are likely
to be the ones to reap the largest rewards.

A NATIONAL FREIGHT RAILWAY.

The bill recommended by the House Com-
mittee on Railways and Canals, in the report
of which we printed an abstract yesterday,
can hardly be called a practical scheme of
legislation just now, and yet it deserves a
careful consideration. The report itself, while
it gives a general approval to the provisions
of the bill, and even advances careful argu-
ments in its support, does not urge immediate
action upon it, but rather sets it forth for the
deliberate approval of the people. We gave
a synopsis of the bill when it was
referred to the Committee last January.
It contemplates the construction of a double-
track freight railroad from New-York to the
Missouri River, and the regulation of tolls by
national legislation. Bulk freights, such as
grain, coal, ore, lumber, provisions, live stock,
&c., are subject to a maximum rate varying
from one cent per ton per mile for distances
under 150 miles to five mills per ton per mile
for distances over 750 miles, with an addi-
tional charge of one mill per ton per mile
during the Winter. The maximum rates for
other freights are to be fixed by a board of
five Commissioners, three to be appointed by
the President and Senate and two by the rail-
road.

In this plan will be found the main princi-
ple upon which we believe the transportation
difficulty must ultimately be settled—namely,
a complete separation between the passenger
and freight business. We cannot shut our
eyes to the fact that in spite of tolls so heavy
as to destroy the prosperity of vast fertile
regions, and seriously check the development
of the country, the railroads are not making ex-
orbitant profits, and many of them are paying
no dividends. How far this unsatisfactory
condition of affairs is the result of stock-
watering and other illegitimate inflations
of railroad capital, we need not now inquire.
It is too late to reduce the capital to the
actual cost without gross injustice to innocent
investors and the destruction of interests
which are closely bound up with the welfare
of the farmer. The plain truth is that rail-
roads, as they are now built and managed,
cannot carry wheat from Iowa to the seaboard
at a cost which will give the producer a
reasonable profit on his labor and outlay.
Legislation may relieve some few localities
by preventing unfair discriminations;
but back of the minor wrongs of this
or that particular county lies the indisputable
fact that the actual cost of railway carriage is
greater than the farmer can afford to pay. We
see no means by which this cost can be materi-
ally reduced unless freight trains are enabled to
move at uniform rates of speed, along easy grades,
and by the shortest through routes, and to keep
moving all the time; and they cannot do this,
of course, unless passenger trains are put out of
their way.

The great problem is the cost of construc-
tion. The bill proposes that the road shall be
built by private capital, but the United States
shall guarantee five per cent interest on its
bonds to the amount of \$20,000 per mile of
single track—the whole extent not to exceed
3,000 miles of single track; or say \$80,000,000
worth of bonds at \$3,000,000 annual interest.
To secure this loan the Government is to hold
a first mortgage on all the property of the
company, and as soon as the main line is open
for traffic the company is required to pay over
to the Government one million dollars yearly
towards the reimbursement of the interest
advanced. The share capital is to be
\$100,000,000, and the company is au-
thorized to sell bonds to an equal
amount, provided it can get at least 95 cents
on the dollar for the guaranteed bonds, and
85 for the others. The cost of construction is
roughly estimated at \$200,000,000; but it is
evident that there are no data for a close and
trustworthy calculation. Running through a
thickly settled and valuable region, the road
would have to pay an enormous sum for the
right of way, while the crossing of the Alleghenies
by a direct route, and yet with easy grades,
would involve very costly engineering.
It may be a question, therefore, whether the
interest on the outlay would not be so heavy
as to counterbalance the saving in the expenses
of operating. Surely we have had experience enough
with Government railroads to foresee the inevitable
result. There would be no surplus of a million
a year to reimburse the United States for ad-
vances of interest. The mortgage would be
practically no security, since it would never
be foreclosed. Year after year the company
would come back to Congress for fresh grants,
extensions, and modifications, and the aid pro-
posed by the present bill would be only the
entering wedge. If the scheme is to be carried
out at all, we may as well consider at the
start whether the United States shall pay a
large proportion of its cost; for that is what
it will come to in the end. At present the
country is in no mood for listening to any
such proposal.

BOGUS AMERICANS.

The bill now before Congress for defining
certain vexed questions of domicile and citi-
zenship is of such a necessary and useful char-
acter that it is to be hoped no timid consid-
erations of the foreign vote will prevent its
passage. The provision which has been most
severely attacked is that requiring naturalized
American citizens residing abroad to register
themselves at a consulate or legation of the
United States, and to make a declaration of
their intention to return to this country. Those
who omit to comply with this requirement,
and who reside for two years continuously in
a foreign country, are held to be domiciled
there. Those who are engaged in commercial
pursuits are not held to have given up their
domicile in America, however long they may
remain abroad, unless they have no intention
of returning. The children of American
parents born abroad retain their citizenship
during minority, and their right of electing their nationality after-

wards. There is nothing in all these provisions
in the least onerous or unjust to the naturalized
citizen. The bill asserts to the fullest extent
the American doctrine of the right of every
man to change his allegiance, and of the duty
of this Government to protect the naturalized
citizen against all claims of his former
sovereign in all cases except where he has
committed crime. It is disingenuous and
uncandid for the opponents of the measure to
say that it admits the obsolete dogmas of
intrinsic and immutable allegiance. Every
word in it is a categorical denial of them. It
is equally untrue to say that it will discourage
German immigration to this country. If it
has any effect, it will be exactly the contrary
one. It will prevent the emigration of natu-
ralized Germans from this country to their
former homes, and will retain among us large
numbers of this valuable and thrifty class of
the population. Mr. Cox, in opposing the bill,
implicitly admitted this fact when he spoke
of the 10,000 American citizens now living in
Germany.

A great many Europeans come to this coun-
try annually to better their condition in life.
Of these a vast majority come to stay. They
throw in their lot with us; they bear their
proportion of taxes, of civil and military duty,
and hold themselves ready to respond in all
proper and legal ways to the calls which the
Republic may make upon them, in return for
the advantages it is supposed to confer. They
are entitled to exactly the same privileges and
immunities as native citizens, subject only to
the requirement of naturalization, as a proof
of their intention to become residents and citi-
zens of this country. They are entitled to the
protection of the American flag not only here
but all over the world. They may visit their
former homes, and remain as long as they
please, and the flag of their adopted country
will shield them from any demands of their
former sovereign. But there is another class
of persons, relatively small, but amounting to
several thousands in the aggregate, who, hav-
ing made a comfortable subsistence in this
country, take their money and their families
back to Europe and settle there to enjoy the
competence they have gained in America.
They have been naturalized here, not to become
citizens, for this implies duties as well as priv-
ileges, but merely for convenience when they
return to their homes. They use their natu-
ralization papers simply as a means of avoid-
ing any service to which they would be liable
without them. They do nothing to prove their
allegiance. They are Americans when they
want the aid of their legations, and at no
other time. They are of no use whatever to
this country, out of which they have drawn
their means of living, and they are enabled by
their short visit here to shirk all responsibility
to the country where they were born. Yet so
jealous is this nation of the rights of its
adopted citizens that it extends its full pro-
tection even to these useless drones, and the
bill now before Congress only requires them
to say before a Minister or Consul of the
United States that they are American citi-
zens, and that they intend some time to
resume their residence in this country. It is
only the eye of a politician, with a lively
sense of the value of a vote, that can see
any hardship in this. The objection to it
on the part of these renegade Americans is
that they do not wish to be compelled to state
that they are Americans. They wish the mat-
ter to remain in abeyance, so that when occa-
sion arises they may profit by their doubtful
position and choose whatever nationality will
benefit them most. It is no more oppressive
to require them to say they are Americans
and intend to remain so than it is to make
the rest of us register our names before we
can vote. The bill is necessary to define the
position of hundreds of families in Europe.
Every mail brings to the State Department
inquiries as to the status of people claiming
American protection, whose nationality it is
impossible to determine under existing laws
and regulations.

AN AGRICULTURAL TROPE.

McKee of Mississippi—George C.—the indi-
vidual who represents in a very able-bodied
manner the Vth District of that State in the
Federal Congress, seems an altogether estimable
person. Precisely why *The Washington*
Capital should call him a "Legislative Pump-
kin-Head" we are unable to discover. The
remark seems not wholly complimentary, but
we are not sufficiently familiar with the social
customs of the National Capital to say posi-
tively that "pumpkin-head" is not a term of
endearment. Possibly, since the cessation of
partisanship in the agricultural regions and
the development of the Grange movement, the
use of agricultural epithets as pet names has
come in fashion at the National Capital; but
even then this particular remark, from a
phenomenological point of view, has somehow
the flavor of unkindness. For estimable as the
pumpkin is when viewed merely as a vegetable
reposing on its native heath, it has a quality
of hollowness that the science of craniology
by no means recognizes as indicative of intel-
lectual power.

That the Honorable Mr. McKee of Mississippi
did not consider the application of the term
as intended to be complimentary, is sufficiently
indicated by the fact that he searched Wash-
ington for two days with great ardor and im-
petuosity and a rattan stick for the author of
the article in which the agricultural figure oc-
curred. It has come to be understood in
Washington that the degree of friendliness
with which any person seeking for the editor
of *The Capital* is animated may be measured
with reasonable accuracy by the size of the
stick with which he prosecutes the search.
The rattan with which the Honorable Mr.
McKee went feeling after the editor, if haply
he might find him, was about half an inch in
diameter, a fact which influenced the minds
of impartial spectators to the belief that he
used it as Gen. Taylor did the dogs in the
Florida war—simply to find out where he was,
and not to worry him. The editor of the
paper being absent, he transferred his affec-
tionate solicitude to a namesake, the amiable
young poet and House Librarian. Him he
found in the library of the House, and to him
addressed his abrupt conundrums and tender
greetings.

The Honorable Mr. McKee, though not a
native of Mississippi, has lived in the State
since the war, when not occupied with the
duties of statesmanship in the United States
Congress, and has become thoroughly imbued
with the notion that chivalry consists in find-
ing a man smaller than himself and "lick-
ing" him. He congratulated himself upon
finding John J. Piatt. He at once pro-
ceeded to the examination of that gentle-
man with the startling inquiry whether
he was the author of the article calling
him a "legislative pumpkin-head." Mr.
Piatt responded that he was not, but that he
read the proof of it before it was printed.
It is related by a local newspaper, to which

doubtless the information was conveyed
by the Avenger himself, that without
waiting to learn whether he was called a
"pumpkin-head" pure and simple in an
uncomplimentary sense, or a "pumpkin-
head" in comparison with some of his
fellow-members, which might be taken, upon
the whole, as a compliment, the Honorable
Mr. McKee rose up in his dignity, and with
the remark, "Then, Sir, since you allowed it
to go in, you are responsible for it; take
"that!" smote him across the face with his
rattan. And then the Honorable Mr. McKee
shouldered his rattan and went away with
the statesmanlike observation that he con-
sidered the account squared.

Mr. John J. Piatt, however, disputes the ac-
curacy of the statement. He explains in a
published card that in the first place he has
no connection with *The Capital*, and only read
the proof at the request of his cousin, the
editor, who was absent. He says that he was
lying back in his chair quite ill when the
Avenging Angel from Mississippi entered, and
that the Avenging Angel, though he flourished
"a stick large enough to fell an ox" and ex-
hibited "the handle of a pistol," did not strike
him with the stick or fire off the pistol at him.
Mr. Piatt's impression seems to be that the
Avenging Angel only flourished the stick by
way of gesticulatory ornament to his high-fal-
lout remarks, and that he went away without
striking anybody. But we have no doubt that
the Honorable Mr. McKee sincerely believes
that he did smite Mr. Piatt and square the
account. He would not have so reported the
transaction to the local press had it been
otherwise. It may be that he was hasty.
Possibly he misunderstood the drift of the
article in which he was casually referred to
as a "pumpkin-head." But con-
sider the excellent judgment he exhibited in
selecting his victim, and the reasonableness of
his satisfaction. He could not afford to go
about Washington all Summer looking for
somebody to cane. His time was too valuable,
and his temper might cool. He was losing the
interest, so to speak, on his rattan. And so
in the most natural way in the world he found
a gentleman in feeble health who had
read the article in the proof, and had
not thrown himself into the breach to
prevent its publication, and on him he
squared his account. Doubtless there will
be persons among his constituency—constitu-
encies are so unreasonable—who will jeer at
him for the discretion with which he selected
his adversary and the very commonplace way
in which he smote him once and called
the account square. There be those who
will say he is but a pewter imitation
of a pinhead original. But we maintain that
the Honorable Mr. McKee has exhibited in
this transaction great natural parts, and a
considerable capacity for growth. He has
been only three terms in Congress; give him
three more terms more and the chances are
that if anybody calls him a "pumpkin-
head" he will demand an investigation.

It occurs to us, however, that the pumpkin
has some rights which white men are bound
to respect. McKee has avenged himself and
squared his account, but how about the
pumpkin? Is it not possible—nay, highly
probable—that with the growth of the Grange
movement and the increase of interest in ag-
riculture on the part of our leading statesmen,
the friends of the pumpkin—who are not a
few—will rise up in Congress on behalf of that
magnified vegetable, and demand not merely
investigation, but dissection, to get at the
facts.

Meantime, McKee is ahead. And not—we
take leave to say—a pumpkin-head either.
He has vindicated himself with a rattan. He
resents the agricultural comparison. No mat-
ter if on the wrong man; he resents it. He
has shown the spirit of chivalry. The friends
of the pumpkin are yet to be heard from.

It may be necessary to premise, however well
secured personal property may generally be in the
Earthly Paradise of Mississippi, that the noble
steed is sometimes stolen there, and stolen too by the noble
colored man. We are not aware that the Personal
Liberty bill authorizes any man, whatever the tint
of his article, to sue to mount himself, however nec-
essary it may be for him to travel. But through some
misapprehension of the provisions of that cele-
brated article, a colored man was lately put on trial
in Hernando, Miss., for horse stealing. Now, there
is another luxury which has come with the new or-
der of things to be indulged in even in those far-off
regions—the luxury of temporary insanity. It was
pleaded that the horse-stealer of African descent was
not in his right mind when he did the deed. Where-
upon ex-Gov. Clarke, who was acting as District
Attorney, argued thus to the jury: "If the prisoner is
insane, he should be sent to Jackson to the Lunatic
asylum. If he is a thief, he should be sent there to
the State Penitentiary. If he is partly a thief and
partly an idiot, he should be sent there to the State
Legislature." We do not know exactly how they
settled it, but at any rate they sent the man to Jack-
son. He may be playing in the asylum, with straws
in his hair. He may be a State prisoner in a coat of
two colors. He may be an honored member of the
State Government. What is odd is that nobody sug-
gested sending him to Washington. If those whom
the gods wish to destroy they first make mad, the
Mississippi mania would have found a plenty of
mad people in the capital, especially after the
Connecticut election. If he wanted to practice the
golden precept of "Honor among thieves," he would
have found an opportunity there. And if he merely
wanted to talk horse, being himself a judge of the
animal, he might have found at a certain end of the
avenue a man to talk horse with him to his heart's
content.

Several days ago we referred to Miss Carroll's
claim for compensation for the plan of the Tennessee
campaign. We referred to her memorial and to the
remarkable array of evidence which she brings for-
ward to sustain her assertion that she presented to
the Government the plan of the movement upon the
Tennessee River which was afterward carried out
etc. THE TRIBUNE said nothing in advocacy of
the claim, but merely called attention to the case of
the memorialist. [The St. Louis Democrat is therefore
in error in regarding us as assuming the justice of
Miss Carroll's cause. That paper presents the name
of Capt. Charles M. Scott of St. Louis as the true
author of the plan of campaign in question, stating
that he had long been thoroughly familiar with the
Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers and believed that
an advance by the former stream would flank the
enemy's strongest defenses. Learning that Miss
Carroll was in St. Louis, and was in relation with
prominent persons in Washington, he sought her
attention to what she proposed, he sought an inter-
view with her and communicated his plan in detail.
We give this story as we gave the other, but in
justice to both claimants we must say that Miss
Carroll in her memorial gives Capt. Scott full credit
for his suggestions, while naturally claiming for
herself priority in the ideas involved.]

Lovers of good and rare books will not neglect
the sale of a large portion of the working library of
Richard H. Stoddard, esq., the critic and poet, which
takes place to-day at the rooms of Bangs, Merwin
& Co., No. 656 Broadway. The books are nearly all
good ones; some of them are out of print and many
of them rare. The collection is especially rich in
Oriental works, including translations from the
Persian, Arabic, Hindi, and Chinese. Many of the
volumes possess a peculiar interest from having been
the property of the great poet, and some of them
gold of some of his most admirable poems. The
sale excites a good deal of interest among collectors
and literary people.

FINE ARTS—MUSIC.

FINE ARTS.
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN—FORTY-NINTH AN-
NUAL EXHIBITION.

The North Room contains not a few of the
best pictures in the exhibition, and of these by no means
the least in excellence are the two portraits by Mrs. H.
A. Loop, Nos. 127 and 171. We have not many better
portraits painted than this lady in our country. That
she had ability was evident in the first pictures she ex-
hibited, and from the first she has steadily and solidly
improved. The contrast is rather a painful one between
Mrs. Loop's "Portrait of a Lady," No. 171, and "The Sis-
ters," No. 125, by Mr. Thomas Hicks. Mrs. Loop's pic-
ture is an honest, unpretending work, well drawn, natu-
rally posed, and in every respect excellent. There is not
a trace of affectation about it; the artistic effects are pro-
duced in the most straightforward way. The weak point
is the eyes, which, to our thinking,
want lighting up a little; they are
good in color and expression, but not liquid enough. Our
own great master, Stuart, used to paint such eyes well.
Turning for a moment to "The Sisters," the first remark
that must spring to the lip of the spectator is sure to be,
"How queer!" There is, indeed, no accounting for the
pose of this group, unless, indeed, it be that Mrs. Hicks
upon a new pair of Sumner trousers. Only one of the
artist's first pictures, painted years ago, was a por-
trait of an individual in which the same defect was
observed, and of many good-natured witlings have about
in connection with it. But apart from the want of na-
ture in the grouping, the painting itself is too thin and
flat, we can but wonder whether this is the best Mr.
Hicks can do. "The Brothers" was indeed a childish
performance, the work of the artist's youth; this pic-
ture seems to us second childhood, and more obvious
its best award.

Another good portrait is that of an old lady by Mr.
Carl Brandt, which still keeps a remarkable strength
and solidity in spite of the too porcelain-like finish of
the surface. Mr. Brandt gives much expression, but his
manner is artificial, and in his work the mechanic gets
in the way of the artist, sometimes. Still, it is good
the upper hand of the artist, that he does not
allow himself to be carried away by the desire to show
his work, and to know of an artist that he does not
slight his tasks. This kind of finish, too, gives great
pleasure to many people, and it is by no means indef-
ensible; those who scout it utterly, may remember
Raphael's "Fornarina," and still greater "Portrait"
—a female head also